

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of an Internet connection information registration service, comprising the steps of:

5 performing a service for registering Internet connection information for Internet connection on a portable recording medium by a write terminal which is installed in a store and is capable of connecting the portable recording medium while the portable recording medium is being connected to the write terminal; and  
10 obtaining a predetermined compensation for the store from a provider selected by a user.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein a developer of the Internet connection information registration service also obtains a predetermined  
15 compensation from the provider selected by the user.

3. A method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of

20 sending a notification representing completion of registration of the Internet connection information on the portable recording medium by the write terminal from the terminal to an agreement count apparatus of the Internet connection information registration service developer,

25 counting, by the agreement count apparatus, the number of subscribers to each provider in units of stores,

periodically sending a count result from the

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agreement count apparatus to a corresponding provider,  
and

on the basis of the sent count result, calculating  
the compensations to be acquired from the provider by  
5 each store and the Internet connection information  
registration service developer.

4. A method of an Internet connection information  
registration service, comprising the steps of:

receiving information necessary for Internet  
10 connection from a terminal of an Internet provider  
selected by a user at a write terminal which is  
installed in a store and is capable of connecting  
a portable recording medium;

generating Internet connection information for  
15 Internet connection on the basis of the received  
information; and

registering the Internet connection information on  
the portable recording medium by the write terminal,  
thereby obtaining a predetermined compensation for  
20 the store from the provider selected by the user.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein  
a developer of the Internet connection information  
registration service also obtains a predetermined  
compensation from the provider selected by the user.

6. A method according to claim 5, further  
25 comprising the steps of

sending a notification representing completion of

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registration of the Internet connection information on  
the portable recording medium by the write terminal  
from the terminal to an agreement count apparatus of  
the Internet connection information registration  
5 service developer,

counting, by the agreement count apparatus, the  
number of subscribers to each provider in units of  
stores,

periodically sending a count result from the  
10 agreement count apparatus to a corresponding provider,  
and

on the basis of the sent count result, calculating  
the compensations to be acquired from the provider by  
each store and the Internet connection information  
15 registration service developer.

7. An Internet connection setting method using  
a portable recording medium, comprising the steps of:

receiving information necessary for Internet  
connection from a terminal of an Internet provider  
20 selected by a user at a write terminal which is  
installed in a store and is capable of connecting the  
portable recording medium;

generating Internet connection information for  
Internet connection on the basis of the received  
25 information and registering the Internet connection  
information on the portable recording medium;

when the portable recording medium having the

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Internet connection information registered thereon  
is connected to an electronic device in which an  
application program capable of automatically loading  
the Internet connection information is registered in  
advance, automatically activating the application  
program and loading the Internet connection information  
from the portable recording medium; and

executing, in the electronic device, connection  
setting for Internet connection on the basis of the  
loaded Internet connection information.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein  
the registration step comprises the steps of  
inputting an arbitrary password for protecting the  
Internet connection information to the write terminal,  
and

encrypting the input password in accordance with  
a predetermined algorithm and registering the encrypted  
password in a predetermined area of the portable  
recording medium, and

the execution step comprises the steps of  
causing the user to perform operation of inputting  
a password in Internet connection setting in the  
electronic device,

executing predetermined processing for the input  
password and comparing/collating the input password  
which has undergone the predetermined processing with  
the encrypted registered password on the predetermined

area, thereby determining authenticity of the user, and  
executing the Internet connection setting on the  
basis of a determination result.

5 9. An Internet connection setting method for an  
electronic device capable of connecting a portable  
recording medium, comprising the steps of:

when the portable recording medium having Internet  
connection information of an Internet provider selected  
by a user at a write terminal installed in a store is  
10 connected to the electronic device, automatically  
activating a predetermined application program for  
Internet connection setting; and

loading the Internet connection information from  
the portable recording medium in accordance with the  
15 application program and executing, in the electronic  
device, connection setting for Internet connection on  
the basis of the Internet connection information.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein  
the execution step comprises the steps of  
20 if a password input by the user who has selected  
the Internet provide is registered on the portable  
recording medium, causing the user to perform operation  
of inputting a password,

determining authenticity of the user by comparing/  
25 collating the input password with the registered  
password, and

executing the Internet connection setting on the

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basis of a determination result.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the Internet connection setting is dialup connection setting based on the Internet connection information.

5 12. An Internet connection information registration method at a write terminal for an Internet connection service, which is capable of connecting a portable recording medium, comprising the steps of:

10 causing a user to perform operation of selecting a desired Internet provider;

inputting information necessary for a provider agreement with the Internet provider selected by the user operation;

15 transmitting the input information to a terminal of the selected Internet provider through a communication line, thereby receiving information necessary for Internet connection from the provider terminal; and

20 generating Internet connection information for Internet connection on the basis of the received information and registering the generated Internet connection information on the portable recording medium connected to the write terminal.

25 13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the input information contains at least one of a method of paying a charge to the Internet provider selected by the user and a candidate of a mail account requested by the user, and

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the Internet connection information is information for dialup connection.

14. A computer-readable recording medium which records an Internet connection setting application program, comprising:

means, activated when a portable recording medium is connected to an electronic device, for loading Internet connection information for Internet connection from the portable recording medium when the Internet connection information is registered on the portable recording medium; and

means for performing connection setting for Internet connection in the electronic device on the basis of the Internet connection information loaded from the portable recording medium.

15. A computer-readable recording medium which records an Internet connection setting application program, comprising:

means, activated when a portable recording medium having a secret area accessible only by a private procedure, where media identification information unique to the portable recording medium is stored, and a public area which can be arbitrarily externally accessed is connected to an electronic device capable of connecting the portable recording media, for loading Internet connection information for Internet connection, which is encrypted by the media

identification information, from the portable recording medium when the Internet connection information is registered on the portable recording medium;

5 means for performing mutual authentication with the portable recording medium and exchanging authentication keys;

means for acquiring the media identification information encrypted by the authentication key from the portable recording medium;

10 means for decrypting the acquired media identification information by the authentication key and decrypting the encrypted Internet connection information loaded from the portable recording medium using the decrypted media identification information;

15 and

means for executing a step of executing connection setting for Internet connection in the electronic device on the basis of the decrypted Internet connection information.

20 16. A medium according to claim 15, further comprising

means for checking whether a password encrypted by a predetermined algorithm is registered in the public area of the portable recording medium,

25 means for, when the password is registered, causing a user to input a password, executing predetermined processing for the input password, and comparing

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and collating the password which has undergone the predetermined processing with the password registered in the public area, and

means for ending processing when mismatching  
5 between the passwords is detected by the comparison and collation.

17. A computer-readable recording medium which records an Internet connection information registration application program for providing a user service for  
10 registering Internet connection information for Internet connection on a portable recording medium, comprising:

means for causing a user to perform operation of selecting a desired Internet provider;

15 means for receiving information necessary for Internet connection from a terminal of the Internet provider selected by the user operation; and

means for generating Internet connection information for Internet connection on the basis of  
20 the received information and registering the Internet connection information on the portable recording medium.

18. A computer-readable recording medium which records an Internet connection information registration  
25 application program for providing a user service for registering Internet connection information for Internet connection on a portable recording medium

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having a secret area accessible only by a private procedure, where media identification information unique to the portable recording medium is stored, and a public area which can be arbitrarily externally accessed, comprising:

means for causing a user to perform operation of selecting a desired Internet provider;

means for receiving information necessary for Internet connection from a terminal of the Internet provider selected by the user operation;

means for performing mutual authentication with the portable recording medium and exchanging authentication keys while the portable recording medium is being connected to a write terminal;

means for acquiring the media identification information encrypted by the authentication key from the portable recording medium; and

means for, while the acquired media identification information is decrypted by the authentication key, generating Internet connection information for Internet connection on the basis of the received information, encrypting the Internet connection information by the decrypted media identification information, and registering the Internet connection information on the portable recording medium.

19. A medium according to claim 18, further comprising

5 requested, causing the user to perform operation of  
inputting an arbitrary password, encrypting the input  
password in accordance with a predetermined algorithm,  
and registering the encrypted password in the public  
area of the portable recording medium as a key for  
10 acquiring the media identification information from  
the secret area of the portable recording medium.

provider list window display means for displaying a provider list window for causing a user of the portable recording medium to perform operation of selecting a desired Internet provider;

Internet connection information registration means  
25 for generating Internet connection information for  
Internet connection on the basis of the acquired  
information and registering the Internet connection

information on the portable recording medium.

21. A terminal according to claim 20, further  
comprising registration completion notification means  
for sending a notification representing completion of  
5 registration by said Internet connection information  
registration means to an agreement count apparatus for  
counting the number of subscribers to each provider on  
the provider list window in units of stores where said  
Internet connection information write terminal is  
10 installed.

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